

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00287 122024Z
ACTION ARA-14

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R 121444Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0678

S E C R E T CARACAS 0287

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MMOL,NLGRJ, PINS
SUBJECT: SECURITY OF VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT IN U.S.

1. AS ALREADY REPORTED THROUGH DIA CHANNELS, VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL LEAON WAS DISAPPOINTED BY USAF DECISION NOT TO ALLOW VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT OCCASIONALLY TO USE HOMESTEAD AFB WHEN OVERNIGHT STAY IN MIAMI AREA IS NECESSARY. THESE AIRCRAFT NORMALLY LEAVE VENEZUELA IN MORNING FOR MIAMI AND RETURN SAME EVENING. HOWEVER, ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, MECHANICAL PROBLEMS, OR OTHER REASONS SOMETIMES DICTATE REMAINING OVERNIGHT IN MIAMI AREA (WHERE OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN PROCUREMENT AGENCY IS LOCATED). BECAUSE OF CUBAN EXILE THREAT, VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE WOULD GREATLY PREFER FOR SECURITY REASONS TO USE HOMESTEAD AFB ON THESE OCCASIONS RATHER THAN MIAMI INTERNATIONAL, AND HAD SOUGHT BLANKET CLEARANCE. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, USAF DOES NOT WISH TO GRANT CLEARANCE FOR HOMESTEAD AFB AT ALL, AND WOULD REQUIRE REQUESTS FOR USE OF OTHER FLORIDA AFB'S (NONE OF WHICH IS CONVENIENT TO MIAMI AREA) ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS THROUGH GOV EMBASSY, WASHINGTON.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH DOD TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION ON PART OF USAF. IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING TO MAINTENANCE OF CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH

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VENEZUELAN MILITARY, GRANTING OF OVERNIGHT CLEARANCE AT HOMESTEAD WOULD ACCOMPLISH THREE OTHER IMPORTANT PURPOSES:

A) DEMONSTRATE TO GOV THAT USG IS WILLING AND ABLE TO RECIPROCATATE FOR PROTECTION OFFERED TO USAF AIRCRAFT AT VENEZUELAN AIR BASES;

B) SHOW VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES THAT USG TAKES SERIOUSLY PRESIDENT

PEREZ' REQUEST IN JULY 1977 THAT THE USG AND GOV EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE CUBAN EXILE THREAT AND TAKE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN THIS AREA ('77 CARACAS 7549);

C) GIVE EVIDENCE THAT USG IS RESPONSIVE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ' RECENT REQUEST FOR INCREASED USG PROTECTION OF GOV PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY IN THE US IN VIEW OF RECENT BOMBINGS AND BOMB THREATS BY CUBAN EXILES ('77 CARACAS 12418).

3. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY OF RESULTS OF DISCUSSION WITH DOD.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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